

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 10761 201310Z

44

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 L-03 CPR-01 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 /124 W

----- 014226

P 201205Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4076

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 10761

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, TH

SUBJ: PRIVILEGES AID IMMUNITIES IN THE NEW AID BILATERAL

REF: A) STATE 92083 B) BANGKOK 7591 C) STATE 62647 D) BANGKOK
3367 E) STATE 19989

1. AS WE READ THE POLITICAL SCENE IN THAILAND TODAY, THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO FOCUS ON OUR AID BILATERAL TALKS AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL WITHIN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE OR TAKE AN INTEREST IN SOFTENING THE RTG POSITION ON THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES QUESTION. LIKE MARK TWAIN'S DEATH, THE REPORTS THAT THE SENI GOVERNMENT WOULD RECONSIDER ACTIONS OF ITS PREDECESSOR HAVE BEEN GREATLY EXAGGERATED.

2. THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL UNDER THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT OF 1950 DO NOT, UNFORTUNATELY, CONSTITUTE THE PRECEDENT WE WISH THEY DID IN THE AID NEGOTIATIONS FOR TWO REASONS: FIRST, WE HAVE AN ACTIVE AND INFLUENTIAL CONSTITUENCY IN THE THAI MILITARY BECAUSE THE U.S. IS THE ONLY SOURCE OF FOREIGN MILITARY ASSISTANCE. SUCH IS NOT THE CASE WITH OUR ECONOMIC AID. SECONDLY, THE RTG IS NOT AS CONCERNED ABOUT THE PRECEDENT PROBLEM IN THE MILITARY CASE BECAUSE IT DOES NOT HAVE TO REGULARIZE OUR MAAG VIS A VIS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 10761 201310Z

THE STATUS OF OTHER MILITARY DONORS - AS IT FEELS

COMPELLED TO DO IN THE ECONOMIC ARENA.

3. AS WE REPORTED IN PARA 8, REF D, RTG INTEREST IN RENEGOTIATION THE BILATERAL AROSE UNDER THE FIRST SANYA GOVERNMENT IN EARLY 1974. BOTH THE MAIN THAI MOTIVES FOR REWRITING THE BILATERAL AND THE MEN WHO ESPOUSE THEM ARE STILL IN PLACE AND WE EXPECT THEM TO REMAIN FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

4. REGARDING PARA 3, REF A, WE CAN NOT ENVISION THE RTG (ESPECIALLY MFA) ABANDONING ITS QUEST FOR REGULARIZATION OF ITS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS ACROSS THE BOARD, AND ITS ELIMINATION OF THE PERCEIVED INEQUALITIES IN THE EXISTING THAI/U.S. AGREEMENT. WE BELIEVE A PROPOSAL ALONG THESE LINES WOULD BOOMERANG AGAINST US.

5. ALL OF THE ANALYSIS IN REF B REMAINS VALID AS WRITTEN. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE BEST WAY OUT OF OUR CURRENT IMPASSE WITH THE RTG IS TO FOLD A LEAN AID ELEMENT INTO THE EMBASSY. THE NATURE AND SIZE OF THE PROGRAM DOES NOT WARRANT A SEPARATE AID MISSION, AND THE TONE OF THE TIMES HERE DICTATES A SMALL AND AUSTERE STAFF, WITH A NAME SUCH AS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE SECTION, WORKING OUT OF THE EMBASSY PROPER.

6. AS TIME HAS WORN ON, THE MILITARY PRESENCE TALKS HAVE SLID INTO PERSPECTIVE. WE CONSIDER LESS AND LESS APPROPRIATE A CONFIDENTIAL SIDE AGREEMENT WITH THE RTG--WHICH WE RECOMMENDED AND WASHINGTON REJECTED SOME MONTHS AGO (REFS C AND E)--ON DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES WHICH THE THAI ADAMANTLY REFUSE TO HAVE STATED EXPLICITLY IN THE BILATERAL. WHILE THE THAI WERE SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN THIS PROPOSAL LAST FALL, WE DOUBT THEY WOULD GO ALONG WITH IT NOW WITH UNDER SECRETARY ANAN ON THE SCENE AND A NEW GOVERNMENT IN CHARGE. ON BALANCE, AS NOTED ABOVE, WE BELIEVE FOLDING THE AID MISSION INTO THE EMBASSY IS THE BEST SOLUTION.
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ullricre
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO10761
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760149-0143
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760445/aaaabmax.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 92083, 76 BANGKOK 7591, 76 STATE 62647
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <28 SEP 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIVILEGES AID IMMUNITIES IN THE NEW AID BILATERAL
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, TH, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006